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NEWS

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SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

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Mutual Health Project Effective



A RECENT COOPERATIVE meeting of state and federal officials resulted in planning for screening of Medicaid children. From the left are Jack Carlson, SRS; Dr. Richard Welch, Health Department; Fay Sweeney, Health; Dr. John S. Anderson, Health; Dr. Ed Maronick, consultant of SRS; Dr. Jack Terrill, Health; Jane Perry, H.E.W., Denver; and Bill Ikard, SRS.

HELENA—Initial reports of a preventive medical program stemming from a joint project of the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences and the Montana Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services show wide usage and effectiveness.

The program, run through the Departments' Medicaid services, is screening children of Medicaid recipients to uncover health problems before they become costly. Participation in the program is voluntary and offered without charge to the families. Thus far the screening team has tested over 500 children in 12 communities. In the remaining 2½ years of the program over 15,500 more children will will be contacted for screening. Current levels of participation indicate nearly 90% of all eligible families are participating and over 95% of the recommended preventive medical and dental work is being followed through by the families.

The goal of the program is to catch medical problems before they develop into large bills and also to give the school-age child all the medical help necessary to help prevent learning problems.

The actual screening program begins before the traveling team arrives, when a local social worker takes the case history of the

1972 Big Year For Seniors

Departed 1972 has been a banner year for the Montana Aging Services.

Lyle Downing, chief of the Aging Services Bureau, announced that 64 senior centers are now being operated in the state. Nine of these centers are financed under one-mill levy authorized at the

last session of the legislature. These include centers in Helena, Bozeman, Great Falls, Livingston, Hamilton, Mineral County, Missoula, Hardin and Billings. The other 53 centers are funded under Title III of the Older Americans Act.

(Continued on Page 5)

(Continued on Page 8)

COMMENT -

by Lyle Downing



One of the most important national aging conferences held in Washington, D.C. was staged last month by the National Association of Retired Persons and the National Retired Teachers Association.

Four Montana legislative leaders and the Chief of the State Aging Services Bureau attended The National Forum on Older Americans.

A galaxy of political stars were featured on the program. They included Senator Jennings Randolph, West Virginia; Governor Jimmy Carter, Georgia; Congressman John Brademas, Indiana; Dr. Robert Butler, Washington, D.C., Research Psychiatrist and Gerontologist, and Robert M. Scammon, Washington, D.C., political analyst. The list of speakers also included Arthur S. Fleming, Special Consultant to President Nixon on Aging, and John B. Martin, U.S. Commissioner on Aging.

The Montana legislators attending were Senators W. A. Groff, Victor and Antoinette Rosell, Billings, and Representatives Robert Watt, Missoula and William Warfield, Livingston.

The opening session was held in the State Department Auditorium, where Senator Randolph spoke on "Action in Aging—The Congressional View."

Montana delegates to the conference agreed they received valuable information about aging problems which will help them in formulating legislation for senior citizen programs.

Here are some of the recommendations which were made:

INCOME: Exemption from all

state taxation of all pensioners up to \$4,000 per annum, plus the removal of all sales taxes on food and pharmaceuticals. State income tax laws should be compatible with the Federal laws.

When Social Security benefits are increased, state reductions in assistance should be prohibited.

HEALTH CARE: Special medical needs of the elderly should be given special attention. These needs should include treatment, comprehensive research and educational endeavors. The quality of care as set by sound standards for nursing and retirement homes regarding safety, hygiene and operation.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS: No-fault automobile insurance should be established. Strongly urge the creation of state offices of Consumer Affairs.

Expansion of moderate-rent-

housing for the aged.

Reduction of fares on regulated transportation facilities is strongly sought, as well as revision of State insurance laws to preclude cancellation of automobile insurance solely because of age.

Educational training and employment opportunities for retired persons.

Strengthening of program and policy formation on the State level is urgently needed. Uniform probate code simplification is sought.

All assistance possible should be given to recreation and cultural programs for the aged.

We congratulate Bernard E. Nash, NRTA-AARP Executive Director, for the fine job he and his staff did in arranging the forum. We believe that the gathering of the legislators from all over the United States will benefit senior citizens everywhere.

Casey Homes Program Begins in Montana

The future of Montana's delinquent youths looks brighter with announcement that the Casey Family Program is about to be set up in this state.

The announcement was made by Rev. Peter Clark, associate pastor of the First Methodist Church, Great Falls, who is secretary to the advisory committee involved in the program.

The Casey Family Foundation is a privately endowed program established by the wealthy E. E. Casey family of Seattle specifically to provide effective, total foster

care service to older children who are delinquent or need rehabilitation in permanent foster family care.

The program, already developed in California, Utah, Idaho and Washington, was offered to Montana by the board of trustees through District Judge Sid G. Stewart of Anaconda. Stewart is known throughout the northwest for his work on behalf of juvenile delinquents.

An advisory committee is now seeking a director and director's assistant for the program. Both

(Continued on Page 3)

STATE OF MONTANA

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(Continued from Page 2)

positions require a master's degree in social work and at least three years experience in field work with children and finding foster homes.

The program provides the money to develop foster homes and to train and counsel the foster parents and the child as well, Stewart said. It also provides all the costs of the youth's care.

The programs trains the foster parents and provides adequate remuneration, but only on a long-term or permanent basis. A trained social worker is available at all times to both the foster parents and the youth for counseling.

(From the Great Falls Tribune.)

The SRS News staff needs help with its mailing list. We know that some subscribers are inadvertently getting two copies. Also, many copies go to the last known address of persons now deceased. If you are getting two copies, or know of copies going to waste because they are mailed to deceased persons, would you let us know? Please include the mailing labels if possible when requesting changes of address, or termination of subscription.

Volunteerism in Montana

by RICKS WARREN

Widespread use of volunteers in public welfare is a newly emerging phenomenon, growing out of response to federal directives on use of volunteers included in the 1967 amendments to the Social Security Act.

Although volunteers were the pioneers in social welfare, problems of industrialization and urbanization created the need for skilled professionals in social service. Today, these professionals are again recognizing the need for supplemented services of volunteers.

The Montana State Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services has initiated two pilot volunteer services programs in the state.

Although many county departments have used volunteers, these



Mr. Warren, 24, a VISTA volunteer from Houston, Alabama, has worked in Montana since March developing and coordinating volunteer programs across the state.

state projects are the first to use volunteer coordinators and develop a formal program for the regular use of volunteers.

Coordinators Hired

Lewis and Clark County Welfare Department hired Lila Whitten as its volunteer coordinator in September, 1972. Missoula County Department hired Sandra Michelson as the volunteer coordinator for their program in October. These coordinators are responsible for recruiting volunteers and matching them to social workers' requests based on their clients' particular needs. The coordinators also enlist staff support in screen-

ing orientation and training, and supervision of volunteers.

The goals of the volunteer programs are:

1. The enrich and supplement agency services to clients.
2. To increase community understanding of the of the department's problems and objectives, hopefully exploding some of the misconceptions and myths about welfare.
3. To give the volunteer the opportunity to constructively deal with his community problems to essentially put the "public" back into public welfare.

Variety of Services

Volunteers are not replacements or substitutes for paid staff, but are a supplemental source of skills and services.

In Lewis and Clark County volunteers are providing the following services at present:

1. Assisting people in filling out food stamp applications and other forms.
2. Working with the mentally retarded at Parkside Manor.
3. Working in public relations at Stewart Homes.
4. Friendly visiting at Western Care and in the homes of the elderly.
5. Participating in a telephone reassurance system.

Mrs. Whitten estimates that about 70-80 hours of service have been given during October and November.

Missoula Activities

In Missoula volunteers are:

1. Cleaning and repairing clothes for the needy.
2. Making household repairs.
3. Participating in hobbies and other activities with the elderly in rest homes.
4. Acting as friend to particular teenagers.

(Continued on Page 16)

Food Distribution Improves Service

The Food Supplement Unit of SRS has grown from a modest service in 1958 when only 4 boxcars of food yearly were delivered to Montana to the point now when nearly 19,900 persons per months are eligible, thus requiring nearly 70 boxcars yearly to implement this free food distribution program.

Last year new warehouse facilities were acquired in Helena and recently the Unit took delivery of a new semi-trailer. The Unit is thus able to deliver food to the consumers at a cost below commercial shipping; the method previously necessary.

Charles Willis, supervisor for the program, has stated the Unit in the future hopes to introduce a program of nutritional education on Indian reservations and to help additional institutions to qualify for the commodity distribution program.

The commodity program is a project of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The USDA arranges to buy surplus food products from manufacturers on a competitive basis. The food staples such as cheese, flour, grains, peanut butter, vegetables and others, are then delivered to needy individuals and organizations. In Montana recipients include six Indian reservations, three state counties, approximately 100 state and private institutions, child care centers, Head Start programs and about 100 summer camps.

In 1900 one out of every 25 Americans was over 65, compared to one out of 10 today. There are six times as many over-65 persons today as there were in 1900, and three times as many under 65.

"If you can't make seventy by a comfortable road, don't go."
MARK TWAIN'S 70TH BIRTHDAY SPEECH



CHARLES WILLIS, Supervisor, Gordon Davidson, Warehouse coordinator and Clarence Olsen, driver, pose in front of the new trailer recently acquired by the Food Supplement Unit.



GORDON DAVIDSON, left and Charles Willis record the arrival of several tons of food at the new Helena warehouse facilities.

Gov't. Booklets Available on Youth Problems

The following documents are available at minimum cost by writing Public Documents Distribution Center, Pueblo Industrial Park, Pueblo, Colorado 81009:

SERVICES FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN. Answers pertinent questions regarding services available for crippled children, and lists State agencies administering these services. 1971. 20 p. HE 20:2752:C 86 S N 1730-0009 20¢

A GUIDE TO SECURING AND INSTALLING THE PARENT CHILD TOY - LENDING LIBRARY. This handbook gives background information about the Parent Child Toy-Lending Library program which enables a group of parents in almost any community to begin using the program. It provides practical suggestions for acquiring the basic materials and using them effectively. 1971. [152] p. il. HE 5.6 2:T 66 S N 1780-0993 60¢

Judge Becomes 17th Governor



Governor Thomas L. Judge

On January 1st in Helena, Thomas L. Judge was sworn in as Montana's 17th and youngest governor. At the same ceremonies in the rotunda of the Capitol, Bill Christiansen was sworn in as lieutenant governor.

The following day Governor Judge presented his State of the State message to a joint session of the Legislature. Concerning items of social interest the Governor said, "I recommend that Medicaid coverage be extended beyond the welfare level to provide an incentive for people, who can and should, to go out and find a job without forfeiting their medical benefits."

Governor Judge also said, "I recommend that funds be appropriated to match available federal monies to establish day care centers. I believe more mothers will seek employment when they know their children are provided decent care and supervision during the day."

The Governor delivered his proposed legislation and executive budget to the legislature the following day.

1972 Banner Year (Continued)

In addition to the centers the state agency funded 16 planning and demonstration projects in 1972 with federal funds. Here is a list of these projects:

University of Montana Planning Grant to determine possibilities for further expansion on senior activities.

Kathleen Walford Senior Transportation Service, Missoula. This transportation project gives senior citizens mobility.

Daily Dinner Club, Helena. Sponsored by the Rock Mountain Development Council, this project provides group feeding for senior citizens as well as for many elderly shut-ins.

Social Indicator Study by Montana State University. This was an in-depth statistical-oriented project to show the needs of senior citizens in rural areas.

Audiological Services project sponsored by the University of Montana provides technical assistance to the University's Audiological Institute.

Meals-on-Wheels of Billings. Meals are provided for elderly residents of the Billings area in groups as well as in the home.

Health Care Food Service. The Montana Dietetic Association conducted a series of workshops to train nursing home cooks.

Butte Transportation Survey. Transportation needs of senior citizens in the Mining City were determined.

Senior Citizen Center Specialized Training. A series of workshops was conducted throughout the state by Carroll College, Rocky Mountain College and the University of Montana. Center personnel were given instructions in how to increase the effectiveness of their projects.

Communal Dining in Great Falls. The Deaconess Rehabilitation and Nursing Center was given a grant to provide commun-

ity meals for elderly persons. Two sites have been established at the Deaconess Rehabilitation Center and the Great Falls Salvation Army headquarters.

Senior Citizens Mobility Project, Helena. Senior citizens in Helena are now able to ride city buses for 10¢ a trip. The State Aging Services Bureau is partially subsidizing the project.

Diabetics Education Program sponsored by St. Patrick's Hospital, Missoula. Under this program para-professional education for diabetic patients and their families is made available.

Hearing-testing and Evaluation for senior citizens in Glendive. Action for Eastern Montana under this grant, is providing assistance to senior citizens in obtaining hearing-aid examinations and evaluation.

Butte Diners Club. The Silver Bow County Anti-poverty Council is providing meals for senior citizens daily at St. Lawrence School and Silver Bow Homes.

According to Downing, the State agency has made grants totaling \$189,124 to carry on these 16 projects.

"There is considerable uncertainty as to further expansion of aging projects," Downing declared. "It depends on action by President Nixon and Congress on the HEW-Labor Bill which was vetoed by the President. We are also concerned over the future of the proposed national nutrition program under which Montana was to receive \$500,000. This was also vetoed by President Nixon. Some officials in Washington contend that the grants to the states under the nutrition program would not be sufficient to do the job."

The total outlay for all grants, including centers for 1972, was \$321,446.

SRS Prepares for PFP

HELENA—The Montana Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services is currently working to be ready for the likelihood of a major revision in the way data and reports will be prepared for analysis and decision making. A revised draft of regulations from the U.S. Office of Management and Budget requires a program called "PFP," (for Program and Financial Planning) to be established by recipients of federal grants. If the wrinkles can be ironed out of the current draft, PFP could become a requirement by May 1, 1973.

The U.S. Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services has hired the consulting firm of Touche Ross, Inc., to present a plan to state SRS departments for implementing PFP if the program is required, and to explain how SRS may benefit from the concept of PFP even if the project is not required by the federal government. Recently the consultants met with several Montana SRS officials.

Planning Difficult

Program and Financing Planning seeks to quantify reports from field workers into usable data from which decisions can be made. Currently, according to government officials, much information on federal programs is presented only in generalized narrative form which they contend makes planning for future expenditures difficult. PFP would give statistical documentation in a universal "language" that would have a meaning to program planners.

For an example, whereas previously a social worker might have

filed a detailed narrative report describing the progress made by an individual seeking rehabilitation services, under PFP the information would be coded, using sufficient detail to accurately describe the individual case, and then fed to computers. The information would then be compared to similar cases and analysis of the composite data could reveal trends, show where additional expenditures might be necessary or where savings could be made.

Mr. Ted Carkulis, Montana SRS director, has said of the PFP concept, "This is a modern management technique we believe will have a significant application for our department, regardless of whether or not it will be federally required. The information we can gain from such a system could give our department real ammunition in bringing attention to the needs of our clients. The prospect for efficiency in government it offers is unparalleled."

The concepts of Program and Financial Planning include a belief that services should respond to identified needs; that scarce resources (namely people and money) must be identified, assessed and then allocated to optimize program results; that service delivery can be quantified and measured; that achievements can be measured and that accurate information systems must be available to gather, organize and present program and financial data.

A veteran's widow drawing compensation or pension relinquishes her benefits if she remarries, but may regain them if divorced or again widowed.

FTC Rules to Aid US Consumer

The Federal Trade Commission has issued a regulation giving the consumer the right to cancel, without penalty or fee, a purchase of \$25 or more made from a door-to-door salesman within three days after the sale.

The new ruling gives the consumer who was misled about the price of the product or harassed by high-pressure tactics, a chance to reconsider and retract the sale.

The following are major provisions on the new rule:

- The purchase must be cancelled in three days by written notification to the salesman's office.

- At the time of the purchase the salesman must give you a written contract and an oral explanation of your right to cancel as well as a written form you can use.

- Both the sales contract and the cancellation must be in the same language as the salesman used in his presentation.

- The salesman must pick up the goods within 20 business days after cancellation or you may keep the goods.

CORRECTION

Misunderstanding may have developed from the story in the last issue of this paper entitled "No Tribal Income Used in Computing Welfare Eligibility."

Edie Adams, project director, Disregard of Indian Income, explained how the information should have read saying, "New applicants for public assistance are to have their eligibility determined without the application of the special disregard. If they are determined eligible for assistance without the disregard, the disregard may then be applied to any future tribal income they may receive."

Jack Tucker Retires

As Jack Tucker, assistant administrator for the Aging Division, retired earlier this month he did so in a manner few could match.

By federal regulations persons 65 and over can claim two income exemptions for themselves beginning the year they turn 65. Mr. Tucker's 65th birthday was January 1st, 1973. However, the regulations also state that for tax purposes a citizen is considered 65 on his last day of his or her 64th year. In Mr. Tucker's case this of course was December 31, 1972. Thus as he retired he claimed a

We wish him the best of his retirement."

Jack, a Montana native, has lived in Helena since 1934 when he moved here from Anaconda to accept a job with the Montana Relief Commission, later the Welfare Department and now the Department of SRS.

A year later he was the accountant in charge of the federal Treasury Accounts office in Helena, a position he held for 7 years. Next, he assumed a position as deputy administrator with the Office of Price Administration and later the Office of Price Stabilization. He held this job until 1951 when he entered private business managing Tucker Distributing Co., Helena.

However, in 1969 Jack re-entered state service by accepting the position of administrative officer in Aging Services. Under Executive Reorganization, he became the assistant administrator.

Upon retirement, Jack and his wife, Marie, are looking forward to leisure time activities including golf and bowling. The Tuckers have five children and four grandchildren.



Jack Tucker

federal retirement "gift" by the fact he could claim two exemptions for himself for the full year of 1972!

But there are few people as deserving of recognition for government service as Jack, for he spent nearly 20 years working with various state and federal agencies.

Ted Carkulis, SRS director, said, "The Department will truly miss Jack Tucker. His excellent work contributed to many of the successful achievements of the Aging Division and his dedication and spirit made him invaluable.

Medicare Rates Climb \$4 As Year Begins

The deductible for Medicare hospital insurance increased by \$4 as of January 1, 1973. The new deductible will be \$72.

Under Medicare law, the hospital insurance deductible must be adjusted to keep the amount in line with the average cost of one day's stay in the hospital.

The new deductible means a Medicare patient admitted to the hospital during a benefit period beginning after December 31, 1972 will be responsible for at least the first \$72 of the hospital bill—now running an estimated \$870 for the average stay by a Medicare beneficiary. The present \$68 deductible remains in effect throughout any benefit period that began in 1972, even though the period extends into 1973.

Starting in July 1973, Medicare will also be available to disabled people under age 65 who have received social security or railroad retirement disability payment for 24 consecutive months or more—and to eligible people who need kidney transplants or dialysis for kidney disease.

New Rates Given

Starting January 1, however, the law requires a proportionate increase in the amounts a Medicare beneficiary pays when he has to stay in the hospital more than 60 days or receives covered care in an extended care facility.

For hospital stays of more than 60 days, the Medicare patient will pay \$18 a day, up from \$17, for the 61st through the 90th day. For post-hospital stays of more than 20 days of covered care in an extended care facility, the patient will pay \$9 a day, up from \$8.50 for the 21st through the 100th day.

Governor's Report

The annual report from the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services to the Governor is completed and available upon request from the SRS director's office, 11th and Cook, Helena, 59601.

The fifty page report lists goals, objectives, accomplishments and performance indicators of all programs and sub-programs of the Department. A cost summary is included at the end. There is no charge for the publication.

SRS-Health Dept.'s Proj



WILMA TIDDY, RN, checks the blood pressure of a young client at a recent clinic for Medicaid children.



*THE ROLLING HEADQUARTERS
Department project to screen c*

children to be tested. When the traveling team of specialists arrives in the community, a clinic is set up in a space donated by some community organization.

Thorough Examination

Each child is given a physical assessment complete with blood and urine tests; has his speech and language ability checked; his hearing, eyes and teeth checked and over-all development assessed.

Some children are scheduled for more extensive testing or referred for examination and treatment to their personal physicians or a

specialist. All are referred to a dentist—preferably their own—for a thorough examination and necessary dental work since most of the children need dental care, according to Arthur Terrill, D.D.S., chief of the Health Department's Dental Health Bureau.

Montana is the first state in a federal region of six states to have a screening program and according to Richard Welsh, M.D., Maternal and Child Health Services Bureau chief, health officials in Utah and Idaho have expressed interest in the program.



*JIM MELDRU
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ct Has Strong Beginning



*S for the cooperative SRS-Health
ren of Medicaid clients.*



MERLE DE VOE, audiologist with the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, performs a secondary duty in screening the eye sight of a youngster.



*speech patholo-
and Environ-
prepares for his
in a corner of*

The chief of SRS's Medical Assistance Bureau, William Ikard, also notes "extremely good cooperation" between the two-state agencies and says SRS is pleased with the number of people who have already participated in the program since its inception in August.

Follow Up

Parents are encouraged to attend the traveling clinic with their children and watch as the various tests are being run. This makes it possible for department personnel to explain why they are refer-

ring a child for more testing or treatment.

A referral sheet is given to the parents in hopes they will take their child to whoever he is supposed to see. A copy is given to local welfare officials, who—along with Public Health nurses—check up on each child.

As a further check on referrals, Welch says his bureau hopes to check on each youngster at a later date to make sure he received the recommended care. A central record file is maintained for each child by the bureau.

Handicapped Problems Studied

Although the slogan, "Hire the handicapped, it's good business," has been around for some time, a recent study suggests that the majority (sic) of the nation's employers don't believe it.

C. Arthur Williams, Jr., a professor of economics at the University of Minnesota, reports the majority of the employers he questioned believe hiring the handicapped will increase their costs. Furthermore, his study indicates that all handicapped workers suffer from low employer acceptance.

In his survey published in the *Journal of Rehabilitation* (vol. 38, no. 2), Dr. Williams asked 180 companies to identify, in a mailed questionnaire, what elements in hiring handicapped individuals could properly be considered added costs or benefits. For example, would absenteeism be greater (more cost) or less (a benefit)?

He also asked his sample employer to rate job applicants with specific handicaps on a four point scale ranging from "never consider hiring" to "always consider hiring."

Included were heart disease, deafness, blindness, ulcer, mental retardation, diabetes, loss of limbs and epilepsy.

Results Returned

When all the replies were in (108 firms returned the questionnaire), they showed that:

—Most employers don't keep sufficiently detailed records to judge the relative financial effect of hiring a handicapped worker, whether it is indeed "good business." However, they overwhelmingly placed the financial factors in the "cost" column, expecting more absenteeism, extra insurance costs, extra training and extra sick leave.

—Handicapped workers most likely to get jobs are the diabetic,

the individual who has lost one arm or leg and those with ulcers. However, no group received an "always considered" rating higher than 54 percent and the average for the four best accepted disabilities was only 33 percent.

—The figures also suggest that the employers were basing their rejection on factors other than just additional business cost. For example, the additional cost estimated for an employee with an ulcer was almost twice as high as for an employee with epilepsy. Yet applicants with ulcers had an acceptance rate far above the applicant with epilepsy. (*From the National Spokesman, Epilepsy Foundation, Washington, D. C.*)

Free Income Tax Service

This year the Montana Aging Services Division and the Internal Revenue Service plan to co-sponsor a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program.

The VITA Program was developed by the Internal Revenue Service to help lower income taxpayers who cannot afford to have their returns prepared by a commercial tax preparer.

The VITA Program depends upon volunteers interested in helping others. These volunteers are given VITA publications that are self-instructional to prepare them to help taxpayers complete their tax returns completely and accurately.

The service is available to Montana citizens 55 and over. Persons desiring the service should contact the Montana Aging Services Division, the Montana Internal Revenue Services Office, the Senior Citizens Center in their area or the local chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons.

Havre Solves Transport Problem

Good Samaritans in Havre have taken steps to help close the transportation gap handicapping Senior Citizens.

The Knights of Columbus, along with a Havre auto dealer, are providing a van and driver to haul Senior Citizens home from supermarket parking lots. The service is one way only, and shoppers must find their own way to the stores.

The driver is provided by the KC and the auto dealer provides the van. Spokesmen said the service might be expanded later to take Senior Citizens to the church of their choice.

The Knights plan a survey to determine the possible demand for the church transportation.

Hearing Aids Tested By VA

The veteran's Administration has completed testing hearing aids and has released the brand names of those it will buy for 1973.

Dr. Robert E. Stewart, Director of VA's Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service, says that no single hearing aid will fill the needs of all individuals. Stewart advises those with hearing difficulties to seek professional guidance in obtaining the aid best suited to his problem.

The complete list of those hearing aids tested and selected by VA may be obtained from Consumer Product Information, Washington, D.C. 20407.

Another new Federal publication entitled "Facts About Hearing and Hearing Aids" (No. 0303-0720) may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20423 for 60 cents.

S.S.A. Benefits Rose Steadily

Now that social security payments have been boosted 20 per cent, it is interesting to recall the comparatively small benefits paid in the early years following passage of the Social Security Act.

Between 1937 and 1949, the average check for a retired couple was \$38.40. Although falling behind the inflationary spiral, social security benefits rose steadily after 1949. By 1972 monthly benefits for a couple were just over \$200, which in these high priced times has been termed, "not enough to live on but too much to let you die."

As prices continue to skyrocket, many Seniors feel, it will take increased social security payments plus boosts in pension payments and more governmental assistance to cope with poverty among the elderly.



MONA LANGSTON, Billings Senior Center Director, and Walt Zimmerman, City Recreation Director, listen intently to a speaker at a recent training session for senior center directors in Billings. Over 25 persons attended the seminar sponsored by the SRS Aging Division.

Mail Service Reaches Out

Postal Service is now considering applications for delivery service to mobile home communities and small towns that do not have such service now.

To apply for mail delivery, a community or mobile home subdivision must have at least 2,500 population or 750 possible delivery stops. Suitably paved or improved streets, walkways and mail receptacles must also be provided before approval of service by the Regional Postmaster General.

Former requirements stated that communities must have at least \$10,000 annually in postal receipts. This requirement is now waived.

Applications for such service should be sent to the Regional Postmaster General in each postal area; the address is available at any post office.

Suggestions Given on New Youth Code

Last month's Lewistown meeting of the Montana Advisory Council on Children and Youth produced a variety of suggestions to be considered in studies of Montana juvenile law revision.

According to Miss Gerry Fenn, coordinator, over 80 people participated and the nine discussion groups produced the following recommendations:

1. Look into the whole spectrum of laws regarding youth, don't be restricted to just the court system.

2. Build in a youth-advocacy role or capacity into the juvenile justice system.

3. Have an ombudsman for the institutionalized.

4. Consider what can be done to develop a due process system to insure Juvenile Civil Rights under the Juvenile Code of Law.

5. Revise a new language with positive terms for youth laws.

6. Have a Juvenile Court maintained by the state judiciary as are the District Judges, possibly from revenue sharing funds.

7. Have educational programs in the schools in order that youth will know and understand their rights.

8. Include youth on the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council including: those under 18 years; state supervised youth.

9. Look into the qualifications and training of probation officers, judges, etc.—not from the viewpoint of protecting their vested interests but from the viewpoint of protecting youth.

10. Assure the accessibility of an individual to his or her record.

11. Wipe out a person's juvenile record when he or she reaches the age of majority.

12. Clarify the difference between "juvenile delinquent" and "child in need of supervision," including separate facilities.

13. Provide an alternative to the present detention facilities. (not a jail)

14. Assure the presence of a parent or attorney before a minor answers the questions of an officer.

According to Miss Fenn, MACCY members will be visiting Helena during the current legislative session to talk with their district representatives regarding legislation pertaining to children.

Another meeting of MACCY is scheduled for late spring or early summer.

Price Commission Answers Inquiries

The activities of the Price Commission have generated many questions. Some of the more frequently asked questions and the answers, as furnished by the Commission follow.

FOOD

Q. FOOD PRICES ARE HIGHER THAN THEY HAVE EVER BEEN — WHY AREN'T CONTROLS PLACED ON MEAT, FISH, AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS?

A. The initial sale on meat, fish, and agricultural products is exempted because of the fluctuating nature of the market and because price controls might cause food supplies to be withheld from sale causing shortages and possibly even black markets.

Q. HAVE FOOD PRICES INCREASED OUT OF PROPORTION TO OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES DURING THIS INFLATIONARY PERIOD?

A. They have increased but, in relation to other items, not out

of proportion. During the years 1960-70, food costs rose 30.6 percent and meats, 34.9 percent. In the same period, hospital daily service charges increased 155.6 percent; private college tuition increased 92.0 percent; auto insurance rates rose 63.5 percent; and charges for office visits to family doctors increased 61.5 percent.

Q. IT SEEMS AS THOUGH I DON'T GET AS MUCH IN MY SHOPPING CART FOR THE SAME AMOUNT OF MONEY AS I USED TO.

A. Speaking only in terms of disposable income spent for food, 25 years ago consumers spent 25 percent for food. In the second quarter of 1972 they spent only 16 percent—a sizeable reduction. Part of the problem is that the psychology of inflation is not yet broken.

Q. WOULDN'T A BOYCOTT BE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN THE PRICE CONTROLS WE HAVE NOW? IF SOMETHING IS TOO HIGH AND

WE REFUSE TO BUY IT, WOULDN'T THAT BRING THE PRICE DOWN?

A. It would be better to use selective or discriminating shopping rather than boycott. If it costs too much, don't buy it. Discriminating shopping is highly desirable because it encourages competition, which tends to lower prices.

RENT

Q. ARE THERE ANY REGULATIONS DEALING WITH THE PURCHASE OF PRIVATE HOMES?

A. No, because it is extremely difficult to determine what the price of two identical houses should be because of the difference in sites, neighborhoods, and other factors.

Q. IS ALL RENT PROPERLY COVERED BY THE RENT REGULATIONS?

A. No, the regulations exempt many types of rental property. However, the regulations general-

(Continued on Page 15)

New VA Law

A new law provides increased allowances for dependent parents drawing benefits based on the service connected deaths of veterans or servicemen.

To be eligible, the VA said, a parent must be a patient in a nursing home, helpless, blind, or so nearly helpless or blind as to require regular aid and attendance. Nationwide, 19,100 parents became eligible this year for the increased allowance.

Another provision of the law increased monthly payments to 186,000 widows, 53,000 children, and 66,000 parents of veterans who died of service connected causes.



A LITTLE IMAGINATION, some paint and a few items have transformed a corner of the courthouse in Silver Bow County into an attractive play area for children of clients receiving social assistance. The recent innovation greatly reduces the problems of parents who must bring their children when seeking assistance.

Seven Offices

Montana RSVP Grows Available

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) in Montana is out of the starting blocks and running well. There are now seven RSVP offices working in the counties.

In Helena, Linda Lindsay and her staff have about 100 volunteers assigned through nearly 30 agencies and organizations. They have now expanded to Broadwater County and soon will include the third county of Jefferson.

Gallatin County RSVP director, Ken Baldwin and his secretary, Bonnie Pickett, came to Helena and talked with Mrs. Lindsay about office procedures. The following week, Missoula director Linda Woods came to Helena. There was an added bonus for Mrs. Woods because she arrived in time to attend the RSVP advisory committee meeting. The Kathleen Walford Senior Citizens Center a Missoula is sponsoring RSVP in that city.

Regina Middleton is the new RSVP director in Billings. Community Action Program of Billings and Yellowstone County is sponsoring RSVP in Billings. Mrs. Middleton traveled to Bozeman to visit with Mr. Baldwin and get some insight into office procedures and RSVP in general.

Another Community Action Agency, Action for Eastern Mon-

tana, is lending its strength to RSVP by sponsoring programs at Baker, Glendive-Wibaux and Wolf Point. The three directors who are hired for these programs will travel to Billings and pick up pointers from Mrs. Middleton.

Besides sharing ideas with each other, all RSVP directors will attend one national and one regional training conference sponsored by ACTION.

Southwestern Montana Area-wide Health Planning Council, Inc., is sponsoring RSVP in Gallatin County. Rocky Mountain Development Council is sponsor of Helena's tri-county RSVP.

Hill County Community Action, Inc. at Havre has applied for RSVP and is awaiting disposition. It is hoped that Flathead Valley Community College at Kalispell will be able to sponsor RSVP for Flathead County. Opportunities, Inc. of Great Falls hopes to bring to that city.

In 1972, RSVP went from nothing to about 250 RSVPs nationally and by June of 1973 it is projected that there will be 600 programs across the nation with 75,000 volunteers.

Wage Report Due . . .

If you employed someone to help you around the house . . . with the cleaning, cooking, or babysitting . . . and you paid her \$50 or more during October, November and December, a report of her wages and the social security contributions must be sent to the Internal Revenue Service by January 31. For more information, get the free leaflet—"Social Security and Your Household Employee"—at any social security office.

Five 16mm motion pictures are available free on request from the Montana Organization for Volunteer Efforts (MOVE). At least two weeks should be allowed for delivery and requests should be made to MOVE, Lewis and Clark County Courthouse, Helena, Montana 59601. The films include:

"A Second Chance," (1971), 25 minutes, color. This film is designed specifically for the orientation and training of juvenile court volunteers. It is a realistic, hard-nosed gripping story of a volunteer and his ups and downs with a 16 year-old delinquent boy. The film comes with a written study guide for the volunteer trainer.

"With Another Man's Life," (1969) 28 minutes, color. This film gives an alternative to the usual revolving door of the prison-parole system.

"The Volunteer Story," 30 minutes, color. This film gives a broad picture of the types of services volunteers are rendering in social service agencies.

"A Friend for Joey," 30 minutes, color. This film was produced by Big Brothers of America and is an effective film for both recruiting and training Big Brothers and Big Sisters or any volunteers working with children on a one to one basis.

"The Dangeous Years," 30 minutes, black and white. Showing the inadequacies of prison and detention facilities, this film demonstrates the great need for volunteers in the system.

Today, 93 per cent of all Americans are eligible for Social Security benefits when they become 65.

The SRS News is published every two months, and is available free to all Montana Senior Citizens. Those wishing to subscribe should write to Janis Luebr, Circulation Clerk, SRS News, Penkay Eagles Manor, 715 Fee St., Helena, Mt. 59601.

Senior Centers Have Busy Holidays

Nearly every Senior Citizens Center in the state held Christmas celebrations. Many other activities also attracted attention.

The Sidney Senior Citizens met recently at the Moose Hall and celebrated their third anniversary. The Jayceens, who helped organize the group, brought a beautiful cake. Sixty people signed the register.

Enthusiasm grows among several hundred over-55 Toole County residents for the establishment of a Senior Citizens Center at *Shelby*. The names have been acquired of more than 300 persons in the Toole County area who are interested. From a population of 5,800 persons in the county, about 1,18 persons are eligible to participate in the Senior Citizens' Center.

Senior Citizens from *Philipsburg* were among the guests at an open house recently at the *Ancouda* Senior Citizens' Center. Residents of the Community Hospital rest home were transported to the Center for the event. Coffee and cookies were served. Arts and crafts made by members were on display and there was a white elephant table. Attending from Philipsburg were Mrs. Clarice McDonald, who drove, Mrs. Bea McLure, Mrs. Eva Kreig, Mrs. Anne Langlois, Mrs. Hilda Hamilton, and Mrs. Doris Hoehne.

Ed Phares, president of the *Harlem* Area Service Center and his wife, Mary, new General Director of the Center, attended a workshop in Missoula recently. The workshop covered various categories pertaining to social problems of elderly persons and particularly stressed aid to these citizens on a local level.

Many senior citizens can qualify for a tax reduction on the homes

they live in, according to Lloyd M. Stadheim, *Lewis and Clark County* assessor. To qualify for the tax benefit, Stadheim said, the value of a senior citizen's home must not exceed \$17,500. Maximum income limitations are 5,200 a year for married couples and \$4,000 a year for single persons. Age requirements are 65 years for men and 62 years for women. Applicants for the tax reductions must fill out forms in the assessor's office in the county courthouse before March 1, 1973.

Attendance is holding up well at the Senior Center Club in *Ryegate* with 785 registering during November. The first program for December was a most interesting

slide show of places that Robert Burrows visited when on leave while stationed in Germany.

The first annual Christmas party for *Polson* senior citizens was held in the Elks Club December 20th. A turkey dinner with all the trimmings was served.

Something new is being done for senior citizens in *Bozeman* who happen to be college basketball fans. Montana State University athletic director Tom Parac said that for the remainder of this season all senior citizens holding valid Medicare identification cards will be admitted free to Bobcat games.

"COST," a call assurance program for shut-ins, will be launched in *Havre* approximately the second week in January. The service consists of a daily phone call to people who are living alone and may feel the need of an extra contact as a safety measure in case accident, illness or other problems.

Senior Citizens from *Libby* have been on the road lately taking in the sights of California during a two-week swing that included the Tournament of Roses, San Francisco, San Diego, and returning through Las Vegas and Salt Lake City.

Billings officials heard a request for the planning and eventual construction of housing for senior citizens. Several sites were suggested, preferably those centrally located so that the tenants would be close to stores and other facilities.

An organizational meeting for *Valier* senior citizens was held recently at the Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, with approximately 30 persons attending. Assisting with the organization were

(Continued on Page 15)



JANIS LUEHR, secretary, examines the "historic" Christmas tree at the Helena Eagles Manor Retirement home, location of the SRS Aging Division. The tree bore the names of Montana's former governors, scores of the Great Seals of Montana and an illustration of the Capitol. The tree was the art work of Mrs. J. Miller Smith.

SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Mr. and Mrs. Art Sporleder and Mr. and Mrs. Earl Sprague, active members of the *Conrad* senior citizen group.

Construction has started on the 49 bed nursing home and the Senior Citizens Community Hall in *Browning*. The nursing home will be located north of the bank and post office.

Plans for a senior citizen center in *Cut Bank* are nearing fruition with award of a \$3,500 grant through the Montana Commission on Aging. The Center will be located in the Carl Clapper Building. Volunteer help will repair and clean the building and a part-time manager will be hired.

Senior citizens of all the centers in the valley met recently in *Manhattan* to discuss revenue sharing. The meeting was presided over by Mrs. Joe Vervolf, chairman for the Gallatin County Council on Aging.

Formal announcement that the Montana Power Company will convey a portion for the old Peake estate as site for the proposed *Thompson Falls* Lions Manor was made by Owen Grinde of Butte, manager of advertising and public relations for the utility, at the annual Thompson Falls-Noxon Chamber of Commerce Banquet. A large number of senior citi-

zens turned out for the regular December meeting at the *Kalispell* Senior Citizens Center. After the business session, Mrs. Luther Lalum and Mrs. L. A. Shirts presented their piano and flute students in a program. Christmas carols were sung by the group.

Nearly 100 people participated in the Christmas festivities at the Tobacco Valley Senior Citizens Association in *Enreka*.

Price Commission Answers (Continued)

ly control those rented residences normally used as homes. Property exempt from the controls includes: (1) All non-residential property, including property leased for industrial, farm or commercial purposes; (2) Rental units which were completed and first offered for rent after August 15, 1971; (3) Rental units owned by anyone, including members of his family, who own or has a direct or indirect interest in four or less rental units; and (4) Units renting for \$500 a month or more on January 19, 1972.

Q. I LIVE IN AN OLDER BUILDING; HOW MUCH CAN THE LANDLORD RAISE MY RENT?

A. He can increase your rent by 2½ percent above the base rent each year, plus your share of the cost of capital improvements, increases in state and local taxes and municipal service charges and increases in services.

HEALTH

Q. WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO HOSPITAL COSTS, PHYSICIANS' FEES, AND OTHER HEALTH CARE CHARGES?

A. Virtually all of the charges for health services — physicians' and dentists' fees, hospital charges of all kinds, nursing home rates, and others—come under the Price Commission's purview.

Q. HOSPITAL CHARGES SEEM TO BE INCREASING MORE THAN THE USUAL 2.5 PERCENT. WHAT ARE THE CONTROLS ON THEIR CHARGES?

A. Hospitals can, without notifying the Price Commission, increase the charges up to 2.5 percent but even these must be justified by increased costs. They also can increase their charges up to 6 percent, but they must inform the Internal Revenue Service and Medicare before making such increases.

Q. WHAT HAPPENS IF PRICE INCREASES AVERAGE MORE THAN 6 PERCENT?

A. Any institution wishing to raise the average prices more than 6 percent must first apply for an exception.

Q. CAN DOCTORS OR DENTISTS INCREASE THEIR RATES BY THE SAME AMOUNTS AS HOSPITALS?

A. No. They are limited to price increases of an average of 2.5 percent — and these must be cost-justified.

Q. ARE THERE ANY OTHER LIMITS ON PRICE INCREASES IN THE HEALTH CARE FIELD?

A. Yes. All health care providers — both institutional and non-institutional — cannot adjust prices to their rate of profit for the average of the best two of the past three fiscal years.

Food Stamps Not Just For Welfare

Senior Citizens with low income should not be ashamed to take advantage of the federal food stamp program.

Often Seniors are reluctant to apply for the stamps because application must be made through the welfare office, although applicants need not be on welfare.

The food stamp program was designed to provide more food for low income persons than they could ordinarily afford.

The amount of income determines the value of stamps that can be purchased. The stamps are redeemable for food only at grocery stores.

Nearly 19.7 million Americans 65 and over have signed up for the voluntary medical insurance part of Medicare.



NATIONAL AGING FORUM—Four Montana legislative leaders and the Chief of the State Aging Services Bureau were guests of the National Association of Retired Persons and the National Retired Teachers Association at a legislative forum on aging recently in Washington, D.C. The three-day conference was characterized as one of the most important aging meetings ever held on the national level. Pictured, front row from left, Representative Robert Watt, Missoula; Senator W. A. Groff, Victor, and Lyle Downing, State Aging Bureau Chief; back row from the left, Representative William Warfield, Livingston; Senior Antoinette Rosell, Billings, and Harriet Miller, AARP-NRTA Housing Consultant.

Volunteerism In Montana (Continued)

The Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services volunteer programs are eager to cooperate and coordinate their activities with those of other existing volunteer program such as Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Big Brother. Ways in which this may be accomplished were discussed at a recent workshop for director of volunteer programs in

the Helena area and from other parts of the state. This workshop was sponsored by MOVE (The Montana Organization for Volunteer Efforts, directed by Marilyn McKibben).

The goal of SRS is to establish volunteer services in every county. The pilot projects will offer sound models for other counties to follow.

Women receive for themselves or their children two-thirds of all monthly cash social security benefits.

Disabled widows between 50 and 60 may qualify for monthly social security benefits.

The segment of the American population over 75 has increased 97.4 per cent in 20 years.

Address all communications to Aging Services Division, 715 Lee St., Helena, Montana 59601



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